

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a linear image sensor adapted to
photoelectrically convert an optical image obtained
5 by optically scanning an original sheet and read it
in units of line;

an original sheet feeding unit adapted to feed
the original sheet onto an original sheet glass
plate;

10 a discrimination unit adapted to, in a case
where abnormal pixel data of two or more pixels are
continuously obtained on a reading line of said
linear image sensor by reading said original sheet
glass plate through said linear image sensor,
15 discriminate that dirt is present on said original
sheet glass plate or there is abnormality in said
original sheet glass plate; and

a setting unit adapted to set a line on which
the maximum pixel number that the abnormal pixel
20 data continue is the least, as the reading line.

2. An image reading apparatus according to
Claim 1, further comprising a counting unit adapted
to count the number of said dirt and said
25 abnormality on the one line discriminated by said
discrimination unit,

wherein said setting unit sets the line on

which the maximum pixel number that the abnormal pixel data continue is the least and or which the number of said dirt and said abnormality is the least, as the reading line.

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3. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a linear image sensor adapted to

photoelectrically convert an optical image obtained by optically scanning an original sheet and read it in units of line;

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an original sheet feeding unit adapted to feed the original sheet onto an original sheet glass plate;

a discrimination unit adapted to, in a case

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where abnormal pixel data of two or more pixels are continuously obtained on a reading line of said linear image sensor by reading said original sheet glass plate through said linear image sensor, discriminate that dirt is present on said original sheet glass plate or there is abnormality in said original sheet glass plate;

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a counting unit adapted to count the number of said dirt and said abnormality on the one line discriminated by said discrimination unit; and

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a setting unit adapted to set a line on which the number of said dirt and said abnormality counted by said counting unit is the least, as the

reading line.

4. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a linear image sensor adapted to

5 photoelectrically convert an optical image obtained
by optically scanning an original sheet and read it
in units of line;

an original sheet feeding unit adapted to feed
the original sheet onto an original sheet glass

10 plate;

a discrimination unit adapted to, in a case
where abnormal pixel data of two or more pixels are
continuously obtained on a reading line of said
linear image sensor by reading said original sheet
15 glass plate through said linear image sensor,
discriminate that dirt is present on said original
sheet glass plate or there is abnormality in said
original sheet glass plate;

a counting unit adapted to count the total
20 number of pixels of the abnormal pixel data making
said dirt and said abnormality on the one line
discriminated by said discrimination unit; and

a setting unit adapted to set a line on which
said total number of pixels counted by said
25 counting unit is the least, as the reading line.

5. A computer-readable program which is used

to control an image reading apparatus which
comprises a linear image sensor for
photoelectrically converting an optical image
obtained by optically scanning an original sheet
5 and reading it in units of line and an original
sheet feeding unit for feeding the original sheet
onto an original sheet glass plate, said program
comprising:

10 a discrimination module adapted to, in a case
where abnormal pixel data of two or more pixels are
continuously obtained on a reading line of said
linear image sensor by reading said original sheet
glass plate through said linear image sensor,
discriminate that dirt is present on said original
15 sheet glass plate or there is abnormality in said
original sheet glass plate; and

20 a setting module adapted to set a line on
which the maximum pixel number that the abnormal
pixel data continue is the least, as the reading
line.

6. A computer-readable program according to
Claim 5, further comprising a counting module
adapted to count the number of said dirt and said
25 abnormality on the one line discriminated by said
discrimination module,

wherein said setting module sets the line on

which the maximum pixel number that the abnormal pixel data continue is or which the least and the number of said dirt and said abnormality is the least, as the reading line.

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7. A computer-readable program which is used to control an image reading apparatus which comprises a linear image sensor for photoelectrically converting an optical image
10 obtained by optically scanning an original sheet and reading it in units of line and an original sheet feeding unit for feeding the original sheet onto an original sheet glass plate, said program comprising:

15 a discrimination module adapted to, in a case where abnormal pixel data of two or more pixels are continuously obtained on a reading line of said linear image sensor by reading said original sheet glass plate through said linear image sensor,
20 discriminate that dirt is present on said original sheet glass plate or there is abnormality in said original sheet glass plate;

a counting module adapted to count the number of said dirt and said abnormality on the one line
25 discriminated by said discrimination module; and

a setting module adapted to set a line on which the number of said dirt and said abnormality

counted by said counting module is the least, as the reading line.

8. A computer-readable program which is used
5 to control an image reading apparatus which
comprises a linear image sensor for
photoelectrically converting an optical image
obtained by optically scanning an original sheet
and reading it in units of line and an original
10 sheet feeding unit for feeding the original sheet
onto an original sheet glass plate, said program
comprising:

a discrimination module adapted to, in a case
where abnormal pixel data of two or more pixels are
15 continuously obtained on a reading line of said
linear image sensor by reading said original sheet
glass plate through said linear image sensor,
discriminate that dirt is present on said original
sheet glass plate or there is abnormality in said
20 original sheet glass plate;

a counting module adapted to count the total
number of pixels of the abnormal pixel data making
said dirt and said abnormality on the one line
discriminated by said discrimination module; and

25 a setting module adapted to set a line on
which said total number of pixels counted by said
counting module is the least, as the reading line.